

Christmas dinner. And then there were the presents for more than 100 children. There were 220 gifts that first year, 30 years ago.

And the program has grown ever since. Hundreds of families each year are referred to Shari's program by social agencies, including food banks and anywhere people go for help. The information is passed on to Shari and the whole Share the Spirit team. Each family is identified by their needs: a family of three, say, with a 4-year-old girl who needs boots and would like a princess costume. They are then assigned a number that goes onto a Christmas decoration and put on one of the numerous trees posted by local businesses in Homer. Homer residents pick up a decoration and buy the presents. It is pretty well organized.

And Shari and the volunteers then get busy organizing a huge spaghetti feed to raise the funds, and then they go shopping for the food.

A few days before Christmas, the group stages the location, normally at the high school. The presents and the food baskets are then disbursed.

As I mentioned, Shari has done this for 30 years—30 years—and throughout the years, many stories and people stand out.

This is Alaska. So, of course, this was the year of the huge blizzard. Nobody could drive. So they enlisted a club of snow machine riders to deliver the presents and the food throughout the area.

There is the woman who now lives in Pennsylvania, who lived in Homer for a while, with a young child. That child, because of the group, was able to experience Christmas. And now, like clockwork, this woman sends a quarterly donation to Share the Spirit.

You see how the spirit is literally being shared all over the country: Alaska, Homer, Pennsylvania.

There are many people now adults, some with children of their own, who got help, who got presents because of Share the Spirit and are now regular volunteers. Shari knows of many people who got presents as children because of her group's efforts and decided to stay in Homer, have families of their own, and now help out at Share the Spirit. She said: They decided that this is where they were going to live. This is the town they are going to live in and to contribute to, because this is the place that took care of them when they were young and needed it.

Shari is retiring this year from both the program and from her job as a medical biller at South Peninsula Hospital. She will be leaving Share the Spirit in good hands, though: Kelly Glidden, who began volunteering as a sixth grader in 1993; John Adams, who started when he was 8 years old volunteering; and Emmy Olsem Drye, who has been involved in Share the Spirit since she was 3, and who is also Shari's daughter. They will take on the mantle of this great volunteer effort, focused on the Christmas spirit, that Shari started.

And there are those who have been there since the beginning: DeeDee Shoultz and Fran Van Sandt.

And then there is the great community of Homer—a community that takes care of its own.

So thank you, Shari, for all you have done throughout the years—three decades to keep the Christmas spirit alive. Thank you for making our State a much better place, a more generous place, a caring place for all, and touching the lives of so many, and especially for making sure that children in Homer and across Alaska—and really across America—experience the joy and the magic of Christmas. Congratulations, Shari, on being our Alaskan of the Week, and Merry Christmas.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:37 p.m., adjourned until Friday, December 17, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

#### DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

HOLLY A. THOMAS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 16, 2021:

##### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

KAREN JEAN HEDLUND, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2025.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

R. NICHOLAS BURNS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LISA W. WANG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.  
MARIA LOUISE LAGO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

#### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. COLLIN P. GREEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 154 AND 601:

##### To be admiral

ADM. CHRISTOPHER W. GRADY

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RASHAD HUSSAIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.  
THOMAS BARRETT, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG.

RAMIN TOLOUI, OF IOWA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS).

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SHANNON CORLESS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

KURT D. DELBENE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY).

#### IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF TODD E. MOSZER, TO BE MAJOR.

#### IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARC D. DANIELS AND ENDING WITH JAY M. STEINGOLD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 7, 2021.

#### FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ARTHUR W. BROWN AND ENDING WITH PETER C. TRENCHARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 22, 2021.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAHEL ABOYE AND ENDING WITH KYRA TURNER ZOGBEKOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 22, 2021.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM JEFFREY ABRAMSON AND ENDING WITH JESSICA TORRES YURCHESHEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 27, 2021.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARIO D. AMBROSINO AND ENDING WITH CRISTOBAL ZEPEDA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 27, 2021.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NICHOLAS R. ABBATE AND ENDING WITH MARIA E. SNARSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 27, 2021.